

REMARKS

This paper is a preliminary amendment in the above-titled application, filed herewith as a divisional of pending U.S. Application No. 09/742,480, now allowed, which was filed December 20, 2000, and which claims the benefit of French Application No. 99/16104, filed December 20, 1999.

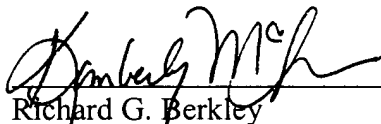
By this amendment, claims 1-10 and 18 have been canceled. Claims 11-17 are now pending and correspond to the restricted and unelected claims 11-17 of the parent application.

No new matter has been added as a result of the amendments.

A check in payment of the filing fee is enclosed herewith. Applicant does not believe that any additional fee is due in connection with this paper. If any additional fee is due, or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 02-4377.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

By:



Richard G. Berkley
Patent Office Reg. No. 25,465

Kimberly J. McGraw
Patent Office Reg. No. 50,994
212-408-2502 (direct dial)

30 Rockefeller Plaza
44th Floor
New York, NY 10012-4498
212-408-2500
Attorneys for Applicants